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## NOTES.

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GOVERNOR HOFFMAN has approved the act, recently passed by the New York Legislature, authorizing the Board of Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks in the city of New York "to contract, erect and maintain, in and upon that portion of the Central Park formerly known as Manhattan square, or any other public park, square or place in said city, a suitable fireproof building, for the purpose of establishing therein, under suitable rules and regulations to be prescribed by the said Board from time to time, a Museum and Gallery of Art," and also a suitable fireproof building for a "Museum of Natural History, at an aggregate cost not exceeding a sum of which the annual interest, at the rate of interest at which a fund or stock shall be issued, is thirty-five thousand dollars for each of said buildings," and adding that "it shall be the duty of and lawful for the Comptroller of the city of New York to create and issue, in the manner in this act provided, such additional amounts of a public fund or stock, to be denominated the "Museums of Art and Natural History Stock," as shall be necessary to provide the money required for erecting said buildings, to an amount not exceeding the aforesaid limitations."

Capt. Hall will leave for the Arctic Regions in the steamer *Periwinkle*, which will probably be rechristened the *Polaris*, about the first of June or as much earlier as he can get away. He will be well fitted and provisioned with every thing which can be devised for carrying a large amount of nutriment in a small space. One of the boilers of the vessel which uses steam and sails indifferently, is being fitted to burn animal oil or blubber. He will be accompanied by Dr. Emil Bessels, well known as the naturalist of the last Spitzbergen Expedition, and the author of several valuable papers on the development of articulate animals, as naturalist. Morton, formerly of Kane's expedition, and others well acquainted with the Arctic Regions will accompany the Captain in his search for the North Pole. The Secretary of the Navy and other officials have done their best toward forwarding the objects of the Expedition, and as far as can be foreseen it will possess all the necessary elements of success.

A new scientific organization has been established at Washington under the name of "The Philosophical Society of Washington." The following is the list of officers:—*President*, Prof. Joseph Henry (Sec'y Smith. Inst.). *Vice presidents*, Gen. Horace Capron (Comm. of Agric.), Prof. J. E. Hilgard (Asst. Sup. Coast Survey), Gen. M. C. Meigs (Quart'mast. Gen. U. S. A.), and Wm. B. Taylor (Principal Examiner Pat. Off.). *Treasurer*, Rev. Peter Parker, D. D. *Secretaries*, Dr. B. F. Craig (Chemist, Surg. General's Off.), Prof. Theodore Gill (Asst. Libr. of Congress). *Executive Committee*, Prof. Thomas Antisell (Chemist Dep. Agric.), Maj. Gen. J. K. Barnes (Surg. Gen. U. S. A.), Prof. S. F. Baird (Asst. Sec'y Smith. Inst.), Col. T. L. Casey (Eng. Dep. U. S. A.), Prof. J. H. Coffin (Nautical Almanac), Adm'l Thornton Jenkins (U. S. Navy), Prof. Simon Newcomb (Naval Observatory), Gen. W. T. Sherman (U. S. A.), and Dr. J. J. Woodward (Army Med. Mus. Surg. Gen. Office).

In a late number of this journal, we called attention to the expedition of Mr. G. W. Belfrage of Waco, Texas, to New Mexico, for the purpose of collecting insects. We may say, here, that during his absence, shares in his collections may be had at any time by paying the money (\$25.00) to Swenson, Perkins & Co., 80 Beaver street, New York.

While Mr. Belfrage is industriously collecting in the extreme south, a good, neat and careful collector is needed for the northern and western states. Specimens of the smaller moths, carefully mounted, of the rarer and smaller beetles, hymenoptera, and diptera are wanted by entomologists, who would pay a fair price for them. College students and others could more than pay the expenses of a summer trip by careful and minute collecting.

Messrs. J. A. Allen and Richard Bliss, jr., of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass, with Mr. C. W. Bennett of Holyoke, Mass, started late in April on a six months collecting trip to the Plains and the Rocky Mountains. The primary object of the expedition is to collect the larger mammals of the West.

Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institution, has received the decoration of "Commander of the Order of St. Olaf," from Charles King of Sweden and Norway. A joint resolution has been offered in Congress to enable the Professor to accept the honor.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University, the President presented votes of the corporation electing Francis Parkman, Professor of Horticulture, and Daniel D. Slade, Professor of Applied Zoology in the Bussey Agricultural Institution, which is a department of the University.

Mr. F. G. Sanborn has been appointed instructor in practical entomology in the Bussey Agricultural Institution of Harvard University.

Congress recently appropriated \$40,000 for the annual expenses of the U. S. Geologist, Dr. F. V. Hayden, who is surveying the Rocky Mountain region of Colorado.

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. C. — Camphor does as well as anything to keep insects out, but the best thing is to see that your insects are not infested before placing them in *very tight* boxes or drawers. This, with constant watchfulness, will keep your insect free from harm.

C. W. writes "We have a favorite cat which by our reckoning has killed in her day, being now about ten years old, not less than three thousand (3000) rats and mice.

Last summer she had a very sore leg which was cured but it either left her with an itching humor which bred lice, or becoming lousy her constant scratching causes her to appear as if having some itching disease. However it may be, I send you some of the lice.

The lice are probably the common cat lice of this country thought by Dr. W. I. Burnett to be probably the same as the European species, *Trichodectes subrostratus* Nitzsch. They probably caused the "itching disease."

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

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*Verhandlungen der k. k. geologischen Reichsanstalt.* July-Dec., 1870. Nos. 10-18. Royal 8vo. Wien.

*Appeal to the Friends of Poland in the United States of America.* [In relation to a Polish Historical Museum.]

*Address of George Bentham, President of the Linnean Society.* May 24, 1867. 8vo. London. *Abhandlungen herausgegeben vom naturwissenschaftlichen Vereine zu Bremen.* I. Bd., Heft 1, 2, 3. 1866-1868. 8vo. Bremen.

*Memoire sur les causes et sur les effets de la Chaleur de la Lumiere et de l'Electricite.* Par M. Sequin. 8vo. Paris. 1865.

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*Cephalopodes Siluriens de la Boheme.* Introduction. Par J. Barrande. 8vo. Paris. 1867.

*I. Reapparition du genre Arcturiscina. II. Faune Silurienne des environs de Hof, en Baviere.* Par J. Barrande. 8vo. Paris. 1868.

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*Journal of the Queckett Microscopical Club.* April, 1871. London.

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*Die Fische Deutschlands und der Schweiz in 87 colorirten abbildungen nach der natur.* Von J. C. Weber. 16mo, cloth, pp. 61. Munchen, 1871. Christian Kaiser. [\$4.30.]

*Nelumbium luteum, or the Great American Water Lily. Its value as an ornament to the public parks of Chicago.* With illustration. By E. M. Hale, M.D. 12mo, pp. 15. Chicago, 1871.

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*Minnesota Historical Society [Circular],* Jan. 28, 1871.

*American Journal of Science and Arts.* May, 1871.

*Nature,* London. Nos. for April and May.

*Land and Water,* London. Nos. for April.

*The Field,* London. Nos. for April and May.

*The Academy,* London. Nos. for April and May.

*Science Gossip,* London. May.